

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A document read-out apparatus having a document read-out function for reading out a document according to a first speech parameter, comprising:

10 a first specifying section which specifies a keyword; and

a read-out section which reads out the document according to a second speech parameter different from the first speech parameter, until a keyword  
15 within the document.

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2. The document read-out apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second speech parameters respectively include at least one parameter selected from a group of a reproducing speed, volume and sound pitch.

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3. The document read-out apparatus as  
30 claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a second specifying section which specifies the second speech parameter.

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4. The document read-out apparatus as

claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

5 a section which carries out in advance at least a part of a speech data generating process with respect to the document for a document portion from the specified keyword and after, while the document is read out until the specified keyword; and

10 a section which reads out the document portion from the specified keyword and after according to the first speech parameter, based on a result of the speech data generating process which is carried out in advance.

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5. The document read-out apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said read-out section carries out a speech synthesizing process which is included in the document read-out function or is  
20 independent of the document read-out function.

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6. The document read-out apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said first specifying section enables a keyword to be specified while the document is being read out according to the first speech parameter; and

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said read-out section reads out the document according to the second speech parameter until the keyword which is specified while the document is being read out.

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7. A document read-out method which uses a document read-out function for reading out a document according to a first speech parameter, comprising the steps of:

- 5           (a) specifying a keyword; and  
            (b) reading out the document according to a second speech parameter different from the first speech parameter, until a keyword within the document.

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8. The document read-out method as  
15 claimed in claim 7, wherein the first and second speech parameters respectively include at least one parameter selected from a group of a reproducing speed, volume and sound pitch.

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9. The document read-out method as  
claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of:  
25           (c) specifying the second speech parameter.

10. The document read-out method as  
claimed in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:  
            (c) carrying out in advance at least a part of a speech data generating process with respect to the document for a document portion from the specified  
35 keyword and after, while the document is read out until the specified keyword; and  
            (d) reading out the document portion from the

specified keyword and after according to the first speech parameter, based on a result of the speech data generating process which is carried out in advance.

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11. The document read-out method as  
10 claimed in claim 7, wherein said step (b) carries out a speech synthesizing process which is included in the document read-out function or is independent of the document read-out function.

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12. The document read-out method as  
claimed in claim 7, wherein:  
20 said step (a) enables a keyword to be specified while the document is being read out according to the first speech parameter; and  
said step (b) reads out the document according to the second speech parameter until the keyword  
25 which is specified while the document is being read out.

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13. A computer-readable storage medium  
which stores a document read-out program for causing a computer to read out a document according to a first speech parameter, said document read-out  
35 program comprising:  
a first specifying procedure which causes the computer to specify a keyword; and

a read-out procedure which causes the computer to read out the document according to a second speech parameter different from the first speech parameter, until a keyword within the document.

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14. The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first and second speech parameters respectively include at least one parameter selected from a group of a reproducing speed, volume and sound pitch.

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15. The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein said document read-out program further comprising:

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a second specifying procedure which causes the computer to specify the second speech parameter.

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16. The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein said document read-out program further comprising:

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a procedure which causes the computer to carry out in advance at least a part of a speech data generating process with respect to the document for a document portion from the specified keyword and after, while the document is read out until the specified keyword; and

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a procedure which causes the computer to read out the document portion from the specified keyword

and after according to the first speech parameter,  
based on a result of the speech data generating  
process which is carried out in advance.

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17. The computer-readable storage medium  
as claimed in claim 13, wherein said read-out  
10 procedure links to a speech synthesizing procedure  
which is included in the document read-out program  
or is independent of the document read-out program.

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18. The computer-readable storage medium  
as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said first specifying procedure enables the  
20 computer to specify a keyword while the document is  
being read out according to the first speech  
parameter; and

said read-out procedure causes the computer to  
read out the document according to the second speech  
25 parameter until the keyword which is specified while  
the document is being read out.

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